

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AD/00

DATE: *March*  
22/3/49

FROM : Acting Chief, FDB

SUBJECT: Draft Memo to Chief, ICAPS, subject: "Translation Service"

1. FDB does not concur in proposed memorandum for the following reasons:

a. Subject of translations was sufficiently and adequately treated in 7 March memo to ICAPS.

b. Presentation of cost figures without complete background story may lead to a good deal of misunderstanding and irritation on the part of the agencies.

2. For more detailed discussion, please see attached memorandum from Deputy Chief, FDB on this subject.

50X1

J. J. BAGNALL

Encls: DC, FDB memo to AC, FDB  
Draft memo to C, ICAPS

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*See "Draft on NSCI" on  
"Document & Translation" for signed  
copy from Hellebratter*

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Chief, FDB

Mar 21  
21/3/49

Deputy Chief, FDB

Draft memo "to Chief, ICAPS, from AD/00, subject: Translation Service"

1. I believe sending the subject memorandum would accomplish no constructive purpose and might quite possibly retard our progress toward securing a charter for our operations. I, therefore, urge that no such paper be forwarded at this time.

2. The Ad Hoc Committee was specifically charged with the consideration of the problem of formation of a central translation service. It has completed its mission and discharged its obligation. *\*The Committee has reached no decision, FDB and ICAPS have, on basis of individual memos from IAC members.* Its decision has conformed to majority opinion against a central translation service. In our talks with the IAC Agencies we have found each strongly in favor of the recommendation, and in process of establishing their own separate services for that routine function. Any further comment on "translation" is, therefore, redundant at this time. *?? Some have been for it*

3. Before fulfilling its mission the Ad Hoc Committee was informed of all the facts outlined in paragraph 1. of basic memorandum. The IAC Agencies are also aware of these facts and are now responding in many cases in a most encouraging manner to avoid requests for routine translations. For example, in the past week a) "Please scan these documents and let us have any information they contain on a direct change of political administration"; b) "Please look this document over and tell us if there is any information in it worth considering". These requests are for intelligence exploitation and we have responded quickly to the requestor's satisfaction in all cases. All the IAC Agencies are beginning to realize that this type of service is considerably more to their advantage than routine translation. Reinforcing ICAPS (for the information of a dissolved committee) is an empty gesture and a new committee would have no obligation to reconsider "translation service". *Disagree*

4. Presentation of the cost figures in paragraphs 2. and 3. might very possibly cause merely irritation on the part of a new committee and certainly on the part of some of the IAC Agencies. These figures presented without a complete background as to the type and volume of work they represent might convey the fallacies a) that we did more work for "Army" than we did for "State", or, b) that we charged "Army" more than we did "Air" or "State". I believe that a cold review of the basic memorandum might make it appear an attempt to justify FDB, which I am sure is not intended. It also reverts to the subject of "translation" which has now been officially disposed of. *Albany intended for old*

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Intended as justification for the ICI origin proposal for a central service, now being hastily withdrawn to show extent of service difference rendered.

5. None of the facts in basic memorandum would be of much value to a new committee which will be charged with examination of the service of exploitation. The new committee will be represented by well-qualified members of the agencies. Of this we have already been assured by the agencies themselves. With you as the Chairman (which is also unofficially agreed to) the committee will be properly informed at all times of our capabilities and limitations and any reorganization of our effort will be in the interest of the IAC. Thus, we can arrive at a charter legalizing the services we are then performing and our mission will encompass proven capabilities.

6. I believe that reopening the subject of "translation" at this time can accomplish no purpose other than the clouding of issues of greater importance.

BENJAMIN CAIN

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DRAFT

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, ICAPS

FROM : Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Central Translation Service

DATE:

18131

1. Reference our memorandum, same subject, dated 7 March, forwarding possible agenda for the Ad Hoc IAC Committee on Central Translation, this office believes that the following points may be worth emphasizing at any future meeting of the committee:

(a) That CIA has not been authorized ~~or instructed~~ <sup>the</sup> by NSC or IAC <sup>by</sup> agreement to establish a central translation service.

(b) That the translation service available in CIA was set up to fill our own needs, and difficulties in personnel procurement have prevented us from building up the Foreign Documents Branch to a point at which it <sup>can</sup> ~~could~~ provide rapid or extensive service even for CIA requests. The authorized inter-agency responsibility of CIA is limited to the exploitation of captured German and Japanese documents according to intelligence requirements, and does not include translation of current material ~~for other agencies.~~

(c) That CIA recognizes the fact that the IAC agencies may lack adequate translation facilities, especially in the Oriental, Near Eastern, and Slavic languages, and that one IAC agency may possess current material of high potential intelligence value which should be translated and disseminated for the benefit of all the intelligence agencies.

(d) That CIA attempts to fill in such gaps by accepting certain requests for translation from the IAC agencies, ~~sums, representing portions of the annual Foreign Documents Branch budget, were expended~~

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but that such requests are fulfilled if and when possible after meeting our own immediate needs, ~~and that~~ <sup>should be</sup> Workload is the controlling factor.

(e) That priority ~~is~~ given to material which is important, brief, in an unusual language, or of interest to more than one IAC agency.

(f) That the considerable service which has been and is still being provided by Foreign Documents Branch to the IAC agencies should be considered as a favor rendered by CIA rather than as their established right.

(g) CIA believes that a central and systematic exploitation of certain categories of current foreign language publications for required information would be of greater value to all intelligence agencies than the preparation of complete translations of isolated articles or books, requested by one agency only.

2. For your information and communication to the committee if you think it advisable, the following sums <sup>(representing portions of the annual Foreign Documents Branch budget)</sup>, were expended by CIA between 1 January 1948 and 1 January 1949 in fulfilling IAC agency translation requests. These requests were for information from or translations of:

(a) Material in CIA's possession (captured documents and current publications)

(b) Material in the possession of the requesting agency, forwarded to FDB for translation and return. (documents of all types)

The following amounts include cost of personnel engaged in ~~analysis~~ <sup>summary</sup> translation<sup>ing</sup>, editing and typing only. They do not include overhead, or costs of administration, reproduction, or dissemination.

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Department of the Army	\$17,759.69 ✓	
Department of the Navy	13,011.71 ✓	
Department of the Air Force	12,194.06 ✓	
Department of State	7,084.56 ✓	
Total-----	50,049.92 x	50,050.02

3. It will be noted from the following figures that fulfillment of individual IAC requests accounts for a very considerable portion of the total cost of FDB's production. Although the published reports produced in answer to the above requests were disseminated and may have been useful to all IAC consumers, they were instigated by one agency only. Routine publications based on coordinated requirements of all the IAC agencies, such as FDB Periodical Abstracts, Foreign Press Extracts, Foreign Industrial Register Reports, Biographic Information Reports, etc. are accounted for in (b) below. Figures for CIA represent reports produced in answer to requests from ORE, special translations for OSO, Contact Branch and other CIA components. Over-all totals for the period from 1 January 1948 to 1 January 1949 are as follows\*:

(a) Central Intelligence Agency	\$ 66,251.94	71,406.98
(b) Routine publications (based on coordinated CIA-IAC requests)	37,584.49	64,475.66
(c) Individual IAC agencies	50,049.92	50,050.02
Total	*\$153,886.35	185,932.66

4. It should perhaps be pointed out to the committee that budgetary limits may prevent an increase in the exploitation functions of FDB without a corresponding curtailment in the amount of strict translation performed by the branch for outside agencies.

screening

\*Includes cost of personnel engaged in analysis, translation<sup>ing</sup>, editing and typing only.

GEORGE G. CAREY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Chief, Foreign Documents Branch		
2			4131
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Dep. Asst. Dir. for Operations	<i>[Signature]</i>	3/17/49
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

REMARKS: Please indicate concurrence or any desired changes in the attached draft and return to this office as soon as possible for typing and signature.

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED